



Keystone Ag Digest



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Released: Early December 2010

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 10 No. 23

IN THIS ISSUE:	Farm Labor Poultry	Cold Storage Livestock Slaughter	Agricultural Prices
This publication may be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."			

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

Hired Workers Up 4 Percent, Wage Rates Up 2 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,157,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2010, up 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 826,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 331,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.13 per hour during the October 2010 reference week, up 20 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.49 per hour, up 27 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.27 per hour compared with \$10.28 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.43 per hour, was up 19 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.7 for hired workers during the survey week, up 7 percent from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California, and in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) regions. Above normal winter precipitation in California allowed more acreage to be cropped due to increased availability of irrigation water. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. In the remaining three regions, weather conditions were virtually ideal compared with last year's excessively wet reference week. This caused increased demand for field workers as the corn and soybean harvests progressed rapidly.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. Abnormally dry conditions in the Southeast and Southern Plains regions slowed small grain seeding and reduced the demand for hired workers. In the Pacific region, above normal rains kept pasture grasses plentiful and lessened the need for livestock movement. This led to fewer workers being required.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), Northeast I (New England and New York), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. In the two Northeast regions, the higher wages were due to strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industry. The higher wages in the Corn Belt II region were due to strong demand for skilled workers to help with the grain harvest. In the Lake region, the higher wages were due to more salaried workers working fewer hours which pushed the average wage up.

The 2010 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$10.95 per hour, up 1 percent from the 2009 annual average wage rate of \$10.83 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$10.19 per hour, up 12 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$10.22 per hour, up 1 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$10.12 per hour.

SOURCE: **Farm Labor**, 3:00 p.m. November 18, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF OCTOBER 10-16, 2010¹

Item	NE II ²	U. S. ³
<i>Thousands</i>		
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	37	826
Expected to be Employed.....		
150 Days or More	28	588
149 Days or Less.....	9	238
<i>Hours</i>		
Hours Worked		
Hired	41.9	41.7
<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers	12.05	11.13
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	11.30	10.43
Field	11.84	10.49
Livestock	10.17	10.27

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. ² NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ³ Excludes AK.

SOURCE: **Farm Labor**, 3:00 p.m. November 18, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, NOVEMBER 2010

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Nov 2009	Oct 2010	Nov 2010 ¹	Nov 2009	Oct 2010	Nov 2010 ¹
Dollars							
Corn	Bu.	3.69	5.44	5.77	3.65	4.32	4.59
Soybeans ²	Bu.	-	-	-	9.53	10.20	11.20
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	4.60	5.80	6.04
Oats.....	Bu.	2.44	2.81	2.90	2.02	2.37	2.57
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	4.46	3.75	3.76
Hay, Dry All	Ton	131.00	116.00	109.00	105.00	113.00	111.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	152.00	142.00	135.00	109.00	118.00	117.00
Dry Other.....	Ton	125.00	112.00	105.00	97.90	96.90	95.50
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	0.312	0.366	0.388	0.333	0.349	0.321
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	40.30	50.80	51.80	43.60	55.40	53.00
Calves	Cwt.	100.00	101.00	99.80	104.00	120.00	122.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	79.50	91.50	92.70	85.40	98.80	100.00
Barrows & Gilts.....	Cwt.	37.40	49.60	44.60	40.50	53.50	47.40
Sows	Cwt.	38.10	52.30	46.80	36.10	49.10	42.70
Sheep.....	Cwt.	50.00	64.00	-	36.30	48.50	-
Lambs	Cwt.	114.00	128.00	-	97.70	138.00	-
Eggs ³	Doz.	0.870	⁶	⁶	0.884	0.654	1.020
Milk, All.....	Cwt.	16.80	20.30	20.10	15.40	18.50	17.90
Fluid Grade.....	Cwt.	16.80	20.30	-	15.40	18.50	17.90
Manufactured Grade ⁴ ...	Cwt.	-	-	-	15.30	17.40	15.60
Milk Cows ⁵	Head	-	1,400.00	-	-	1,330.00	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ PA is no longer published due to insufficient manufacturing grade milk volume. ⁵ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., Jul., Oct.). ⁶ PA is no longer publishing monthly Market Egg prices. SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

NOVEMBER FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX ADVANCED 4 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 159 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 4 points (2.6 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 9 points (5.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.7 percent). Producers received higher prices for soybeans, corn, lettuce, and eggs and lower prices for hogs, milk, apples, and cucumbers. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of milk, cotton, cattle, and corn offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and lettuce.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 23 points (17 percent) from November 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 155, increased 3 points (2.0 percent) from last month and increased 19 points (14 percent) from November 2009.

Feed grains & hay: The November index is 195, up 5.4 percent from last month and 24 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$4.59 per bushel, is up 27 cents from last month and 94 cents above November 2009. The all hay price, at \$111 per ton, is down \$2.00 from October but up \$6.00 from last November.

Meat animals: The November index, at 123, is down 0.8 percent from last month but 18 percent higher than last year. The November hog price, at \$47.20 per cwt, is down \$6.10 from October but is \$6.90 higher than a year ago. The November beef cattle price of \$94.10 per cwt is up \$1.00 from last month and is \$14.50 higher than November 2009.

Dairy products: The November index, at 137, is down 3.5 percent from a month ago but 16 percent higher than November last year. The November all milk price of \$17.90 per cwt is down 60 cents from last month but is \$2.50 higher than November 2009. The fluid grade milk price is down 60 cents and the manufacturing grade milk price is \$1.80 lower than the previous month.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS¹

Commodity	Unit	Nov 2009	Oct 2010	Nov 2010
<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat	Bu.	13.50	14.70	14.90
Corn.....	Bu.	8.36	9.16	9.30
All Milk, Sold to Plants ² ...	Cwt.	44.70	45.10	45.80
Wool	Lb.	1.92	2.09	2.13
Barley	Bu.	9.13	10.20	10.40
Oats.....	Bu.	5.53	6.01	6.10
Potatoes.....	Cwt.	19.20	20.50	20.80
Soybeans.....	Bu.	20.30	22.60	22.90
Apples, For Fresh Use ³ ...	Lb.	0.773	0.812	0.825
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt.	239.00	251.00	255.00
Calves.....	Cwt.	342.00	355.00	360.00
Hogs	Cwt.	130.00	136.00	139.00
Lambs.....	Cwt.	269.00	283.00	288.00
Sheep	Cwt.	104.00	107.00	109.00
Eggs	Doz.	2.13	2.24	2.28
Turkeys, Live.....	Lb.	1.310	1.380	1.400

¹ Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle a, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949, and 1956.

² Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. ³ Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only). Price at point of first sale for other states.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS **OCTOBER 31, 2010**

SOURCE: **Cold Storage**, 3:00 p.m., November 22, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 5,298,000 bushels on October 31, 2010, compared to 5,829,000 bushels on October 31, 2009. The 3 largest varieties in storage were: York, 1,393,000 bushels; Golden Delicious, 1,341,000 bushels; and Red Delicious, 833,500 bushels. Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 222,516,000 pounds on October 31, 2010, compared to 244,818,000 pounds on October 31, 2009.

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 2010 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, eggs and cheese. Butter stocks were down 17 percent from last month and down 43 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 7 percent from the previous month but down 7 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 13 percent from the previous month but down 7 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 382 percent from last month but down 37 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on October 31, 2010 were down 3 percent from the previous month and down slightly from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 15 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 12 percent from last month and down 19 percent from October 31, 2009.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Oct 31, 2009	Sep 30, 2010	Oct 31, 2010
	<i>(000) Lbs.</i>		
Butter	190,624	129,956	108,165
Cheese, Total Natural	969,185	1,042,075	1,036,888
Eggs, Frozen	22,912	26,054	25,453
Poultry, Total Frozen	1,158,697	1,189,833	1,154,306
Chicken	635,994	711,197	733,500
Turkeys	517,463	473,745	417,389
Fruits, Frozen	1,501,050	1,113,069	1,293,902
Fruit Juices, Frozen	1,465,105	1,337,836	1,240,491
Vegetables, Total Frozen	2,724,568	2,550,000	2,641,019
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,162,924	1,070,106	1,133,996
Meats, Total Frozen	968,358	844,667	902,681
Beef, Total Frozen	427,716	396,818	402,003
Pork, Total Frozen	516,300	424,322	478,181

SOURCE: **Cold Storage**, 3:00 p.m., November 22, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

Pennsylvania Apples In Cold Storage (bushels), October 2010

Variety	October 31, 2009					October 31, 2010				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	Bushels									
Braeburn	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	1,000	0	0	0	1,000
Cortland	10,000	0	3,500	0	13,500	10,500	500	1,000	0	12,000
Empire	34,500	61,000	15,000	0	110,500	22,000	33,500	1,000	0	56,500
Fuji	166,000	18,000	23,000	24,000	231,000	75,500	136,000	27,500	14,000	253,000
Gala	53,500	109,000	1,000	0	163,500	49,500	74,500	3,000	11,000	138,000
Golden Delicious	239,000	213,000	947,000	467,000	1,866,000	114,000	267,000	510,000	450,000	1,341,000
Granny Smith	8,500	1,000	35,500	76,500	121,500	29,000	5,000	46,000	39,000	119,000
Idared	11,500	1,000	117,000	23,500	153,000	5,500	1,500	11,500	39,000	57,500
Jonagold	39,500	46,500	94,000	500	180,500	10,000	31,500	7,500	0	49,000
Jonathan	4,500	0	8,000	2,500	15,000	2,000	0	6,000	0	8,000
McIntosh	32,500	22,500	4,000	3,000	62,000	12,000	27,000	5,500	0	44,500
Mutsu/Crispin	12,500	0	30,000	0	42,500	8,500	0	37,000	3,000	48,500
Northern Spy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pink Lady	4,000	0	1,000	0	5,000	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
Red Delicious	349,000	428,000	104,000	57,000	938,000	230,000	393,000	90,000	60,000	773,000
Rome	30,500	20,000	293,000	287,500	631,000	18,500	43,000	304,000	468,000	833,500
Rome Sport	16,500	3,000	82,000	1,000	102,500	25,000	1,000	54,500	500	81,000
Spartan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stayman	11,000	500	13,500	0	25,000	11,000	1,500	12,500	0	25,000
Winesap	1,000	0	0	0	1,000	500	0	0	0	500
York	7,000	0	607,000	471,000	1,085,000	5,000	0	840,000	548,000	1,393,000
All Other Varieties	17,500	7,000	43,500	0	68,000	14,000	11,000	22,500	0	47,500
Not Segregated	2,000	0	5,500	0	7,500	5,500	1,000	7,000	0	13,500
All Varieties	1,057,500	930,500	2,427,500	1,413,500	5,829,000	652,000	1,027,000	1,986,500	1,632,500	5,298,000

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified.

Apple Stocks In Cold Storage, Pennsylvania & United States

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	October 31, 2009	September 30, 2010	October 31, 2010
Pennsylvania			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	146,370,000	73,374,000	110,817,000
Controlled Atmosphere	98,448,000	57,183,000	111,699,000
TOTAL APPLES	244,818,000	130,557,000	222,516,000
United States			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	1,735,644,000	1,100,963,000	1,536,200,000
Controlled Atmosphere	4,324,582,000	2,088,802,000	4,154,407,000
TOTAL APPLES	6,060,226,000	3,189,765,000	5,690,607,000

SOURCE: **Cold Storage**, 3:00 p.m., November 22, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Oct 2009	Sep 2010	Oct 2010	Oct 2009	Sep 2010	Oct 2010
Layers	Thous.	22,951	23,654	23,675	335,819	337,649	335,846
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,453	2,372	2,471	2,292	2,218	2,285
Eggs Produced	Million	563	561	585	7,696	7,488	7,675
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	13,926	13,621	13,449	730,698	761,473	766,978
Chick Hatch-Egg Type ¹	Thous.	-	-	-	37,566	40,307	41,263
Turkey Poult Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	21,245	21,670	21,193

¹ State level data for egg-type chicks hatched will no longer be published.

SOURCES: **Chickens and Eggs**, 3:00 p.m., November 22, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

Turkey Hatchery, 3:00 p.m., November 17, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during October 2010 totaled 585 million eggs, up 4 percent from the 563 million eggs produced in October 2009. The total number of layers averaged 23.7 million during October, a three percent increase from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,471 eggs during the month, an increase of 18 eggs overall from October 2009. Broiler-type chicks hatched in Pennsylvania totaled 13.4 million during October 2010, a four percent decrease from the number hatched in the same month a year earlier.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.68 billion during October 2010, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 71 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2010 averaged 336 million, up slightly from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,285 eggs, down slightly from October 2009.

Egg-type chicks hatched during October 2010 totaled 41.3 million, up ten percent from October 2009. Broiler-type chicks hatched during October 2010 totaled 767 million, up five percent from October 2009. There were 21.2 million net poult placed during October 2010 in the United States, down slightly from the number placed during the same month a year earlier.

**Come see us at the Keystone and PA
Farm Shows !**

**YORK, PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, OCT 2010

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod....	Million pounds	108.2	4,265.2
Cattle	1,000 Head	81.5	2,865.9
	1,000 pounds live	98,904	3,705,877
Calves	1,000 Head	10.0	71.4
	1,000 pounds live	4,294	19,239
Hogs	1,000 Head	245.4	9,733.5
	1,000 pounds live	64,854	2,685,057
Sheep & Lambs ...	1,000 Head	3.0	202.3
	1,000 pounds live	298	26,292

SOURCE: **Livestock Slaughter**, 8:30 a.m. November 26, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at www.nass.usda.gov.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during October 2010 totaled 108.2 million pounds, down 7 percent from October 2009. Beef production, at 98.9 million pounds live weight, was down 4 percent from October 2009. Total head slaughtered was 81,500, down 2 percent from the same month last year. Live weight averaged 1,227 pounds, down 19 pounds from last year. Veal production was 4.3 million pounds live weight, down 8 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 10,000 head was down 8 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 3 pounds per head to 432 pounds. Pork production was 64.9 million pounds live weight, down 10 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 245,400, also down 10 percent from October 2009. Average live weight increased 2 pounds per head from last year to 265 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during October 2010 was 298,000 pounds live weight, down 13 percent from October 2009. The number slaughtered was 3,000, down 12 percent from last year. Average live weight decreased 2 pounds per head to 98 pounds.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

United States
Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203
Harrisburg PA 17112

PRSRST STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38